

From: [Huber, Lyn](#)
To: [Rankin, Dennis - Washington, DC](#)
Cc: [Velarde, Ron](#)
Subject: Scoping letter - Tri-State Generation and transmission Assoc. Power Corridor
Date: Friday, September 18, 2009 6:16:48 PM
Attachments: [scoping letter Tri State Generation and trans Assoc power corridor.pdf](#)

On behalf of Ron Velarde, here is a scanned copy of a scoping comments letter regarding the Tri-State Generation and Transmission Assoc. Power Corridor letter.

Thank you very much,

Lyn Huber
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Keeping Colorado Wild

September 19, 2009

Mr. Dennis Rankin
Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA Rural Utilities Service
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250

RE: Scoping letter – Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association Power Corridor

Dear Mr. Rankin:

As a concerned landowner whose private property is within the proposed transmission power line corridor from the San Luis Valley to Pueblo; and whose property may be directly involved by having some infrastructure built on my private property, I appreciate the opportunity to comment during this scoping period.

I would like for you to consider the following comments as this project directly impacts my family ranching operation, and my concern for the human health and safety of my family and the resale value of my property. Regarding our environmental concerns is the issue of noise and the electromagnetic field that is emitted from these lines. We have a summer residence that is within the proposed corridor. As I understand, the noise and electromagnetic fields increase with altitude and moisture. Our property is at the point of the highest altitude level; therefore, we will be affected the most. In fact, none of the maps that I have seen even acknowledge the presence of our summer residence.

In addition, I question the lack of discussion regarding the viewshed that will be impacted by the building of the transmission line. I have reviewed the simulation map and it does not accurately reflect how the viewshed will be impacted by this transmission line, as the Sangre de Cristos and Spanish Peaks are some of the most magnificent mountain ranges in Southern Colorado.

Regarding the wildlife that will be impacted, as a Wildlife Manager for over 38 years I am concerned about the short and long term impacts to the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout that are found in numerous streams in Costilla, Colorado, more specifically Sangre de Cristo Creek, Placer Creek and Wayon Creek. This area especially at lower altitude is also critical deer and elk winter range not to mention that the higher altitudes are critical habitats for Canada Lynx.

On a more personal note, myself along with my family are avid hunters and the impact from these power lines will directly impact our hunting experience, both visually and by the noise that these lines produce at this altitude.

I-283-001: Environmental Consequences (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential environmental consequences and mitigation measures from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

I-283-002: Electrical Characteristics (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Electrical characteristics of the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

I-283-003: Correction to Data (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. The information you provided will be verified and project materials will be updated accordingly.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

I-283-004: Visual and Aesthetic (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to visual and aesthetic resources from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in

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I-283-007

I would like to mention that I was unable to attend the scoping meetings that were held the week of August 17th due to a busy work schedule. By having all of these meetings only available during this week, I was unable to attend. Is it possible to schedule more scoping meetings in the future? I would

I-283-008

like to end my comments by noting a couple of items that were omitted or could be added. There is no mention anywhere that I could find that the proposed corridor would cross the historic Sangre de Cristo Pass that was extensively used by Native Americans, Spanish Conquistadors and trappers for hundreds of years. This project would negatively impact this historic trail.

I-283-009

Also, I have heard on several occasions that Tri-State and other companies involved are working closely with affected landowners. Until I was allowed to be an intervener, I was not contacted by any company representative although our land is clearly impacted if this transmission is built.

I-283-010

Finally, I would like to recommend that this proposed transmission line be built on an existing corridor that extends from Alamosa over Poncha Pass to the Upper Arkansas Valley. This would make use of an existing corridor and not environmentally impact other landowners and habitat.

My final question is why an environmental impact statement did not have to be completed rather than an environmental assessment due to the amount of environmental damage that will be affected from Alamosa to Walsenburg?

Thank you for allowing me to make these scoping comments.

Sincerely,



Ron D. Velarde

late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

I-283-005: Wildlife (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to wildlife from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

I-283-006: Recreation (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to recreational resources from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

I-283-007: Public Involvement Process (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. The project is in the planning and environmental review stages. Current project information will be available on the RUS project website, <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm> and the Utilities' project website, <http://www.socotransmission.com/>.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

I-283-008: Cultural, Historic, and Arch (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to and mitigation measures regarding cultural, historic, and archaeological resources from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

I-283-009: Public Involvement Process (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. The project is in the planning and environmental review stages. Current project information will be available on the RUS project website, <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm> and the Utilities' project website, <http://www.socotransmission.com/>.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

I-283-010: Project Alternatives (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. A range of reasonable project alternatives and mitigation measures including the no action alternative will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.